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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : After taking everything into account, it has been considered by the Director of Public Instruction that indiscriminate appointments of such substitutes in short leave vacancies should be avoided, and the Government also agree with that view.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHI : Will the Government kindly see that the same rule which is applied to teachers in all ranges in the State is applied to the teachers in the Tiruchirappalli East Range also and that there is no discrimination against anybody with regard to allowance for substitutes to be appointed in vacancies lasting a month or less?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Yes, Sir. I will make the rule applicable to all the districts.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : May I draw the attention of the Hon. Minister to the fact that in the case of aided secondary schools, substitutes are allowed if the leave taken is for more than three weeks? The Government's objection seems to be that if the leave taken is for less than a month, the substitute and the permanent teacher will get grant. So, it seems that they want that the posting of substitutes in short vacancies of a month and less should be discouraged. Will the Government kindly see that the rules are uniformly applied and the grant is allowed in both the cases?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Yes, if the principle is accepted that we have to fix some minimum for this. We shall see how it could be done and pass such orders as may be necessary. I shall try to make a uniform scale applicable to all.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHI : May I know what rule the Hon. Minister has promised to make uniform?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Instead of this one month, to make it three weeks.

*Protection of Tiruchendur temple against erosion by sea*

* 103 *Q.*—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government to protect the Tiruchendur temple against the erosion by sea?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : The Government had already examined the matter in detail in 1952–53 and considered the question of constructing a sea screen wall to check erosion. Such a wall was, however, considered unnecessary. The Commissioner, Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (Administration) Department has now reported, in consultation with the Public Works Department, that there is no risk to the temple. The Government are alive to the need for meeting any such risk if it should arise in future.

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SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Are the Government convinced that there is no danger to the temple and that no damage as in the case of Sri Masilamani Easwarar temple at Tranquebar, would be caused in this case by sea erosion?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : The Government sent their Engineers and the Engineers reported that there is no immediate risk and the people who are there have been able to testify to the fact that the same conditions obtain for the past 50 years and that there is no need for any protection against erosion at the present time.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : As it would be desirable to take timely steps in these matters, will the Government examine whether the construction of a groin at the sea line as at Mahabalipuram could not improve matters and may I appeal to the Government not to take a too complacent view in this matter and not to allow the situation to worsen?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : The Government have called for estimates and Messrs. Gannon Dunkerley and Company have stated that the estimates would go to the extent of rupees 2,50,000. The Government consider that such a huge amount need not be spent at present. We have already decided to send an expert to find out whether there is an immediate need for incurring such heavy expenditure on this or whether the expenditure could be minimised by adopting some other method of protection against erosion if it were to arise in future.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Government kindly enlighten the House on the financial position of the particular temple and whether it would not be in a position to meet this small expenditure of Rs. 50,000 on an important scheme like this?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : It is not Rs. 50,000. It is Rs. 2,12,000. I do not have the exact figures to give to the hon. Member regarding the financial position of the temple. First of all, we must establish that there is an immediate need. If the need is established, the Government will not hesitate to spend whetever amount may be necessary.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : It is due to the vagaries of nature that we have to face sea erosion and things like that. Is it not possible to remove the temple to a safer place in case the financial commitment is too big for the Government or the temple?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : I do not think such an impossible suggestion needs any reply from me. It is a classical temple. Because of its proximity to the sea, it is called the " Sea Shore Temple ". Therefore, I do not think the hon. Member's suggestion would be acceptable to anybody here.

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SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHI : In view of the anxiety felt in the matter, will the Government appoint a local committee to tender advice to the Government whenever the sea advances towards the temple?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : It is a local committee which has been agitating for this. In response to its desire, we have called for tenders and further sent our Engineers. The Engineers say that there is no need for any protection at present. However, as I said, we are sending an expert to investigate into the matter and express an opinion. When his opinion in the matter is available, we will proceed further.

*Vesting of more powers in municipal councils*

* 104 Q.—DR. V. K. JOHN (on behalf of Sri V. V. Ramaswami) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to accord more powers to municipal councils in this State; and

(b) if so, what they are?

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASWAMI PADAYATCHI : (a) & (b) Attention is invited to the provisional conclusions of Government regarding municipalities as given in section IV of the White Paper on Local Administration.

DR. V. K. JOHN : May I ask whether the Government realize that a Welfare State can be created and promoted mainly through the action of the local bodies?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Sir, it is a hypothetical question. It is not a supplementary question at all. It is only asking for opinion.

*Reorganization of district boards*

* 105 Q.—DR. V. K. JOHN (on behalf of Sri V. V. Ramaswami) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state whether the Government have constituted any committee to examine and report on the question of reorganization of district boards in this State?

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASWAMI PADAYATCHI : Yes, Sir. In 1951 the Government constituted a committee of non-officials with Sri K. Kuttikrishna Menon as Chairman for making recommendations regarding the reforms required in the administration of district boards and improving their financial resources so as to make them efficient organs of local administration. The committee submitted its report in 1953 and a copy of it is given in Part II of Appendix II to the White Paper on Local Administration. The provisional conclusions are specified in section III of the White Paper.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Questions are over.